

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED

19 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : NSCID #5 - Agreed Activities

1. In connection with your redraft of the letter to General Trudeau, I wish to make clear that I have to approach this problem completely in the abstract as I am not familiar with the negotiations and discussions which may have taken place recently.

2. I am aware that the whole problem of agreed activities presents many difficulties for the Army and the other services which we should be prepared to approach sympathetically. However, as I analyze it these difficulties do not go to the heart of the NSCID #5 itself. I firmly believe that a new look at NSCID #5 would not develop any new or different principles, particularly on the basic responsibility of the Director in the field of clandestine intelligence. I had thought this was the Director's position, and, if so, I believe no purpose is served by indicating that we think such a review might be profitable.

3. As to the agreed activities themselves, they are as indicated in my draft of the letter corollary to and dependent on NSCID #5. Consequently, it is difficult to see how progress could be made on agreement on such activities if NSCID #5 itself were under review.

4. Fully aware that there may be practical considerations and understandings which require the approach indicated in your draft, I can only restate that an abstract analysis leads me to believe that the agreed activities problem is one properly for the Department of Defense level inasmuch as it is common to all the services. I do not see how this would impair the Army's ability to present its position in full and believe it may be the only way to obtain progress on a paper which has remained static for something like 2 1/2 years. I have no personal knowledge of the reasons for the lack of progress in the past, but from my discussions with the Deputy Director (Plans) Staff it appears to arise out of an unwillingness of the Army representatives to accept the basic responsibilities under the law as we see it and the principles enunciated in NSCID #5.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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20 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NSCID No. 5 -- Agreed Activities

I agree with Mr. Houston's memorandum and would add as a comment on his last sentence that the various attempts to negotiate a paper with the Services on Agreed Activities have all broken down because of the apparent unwillingness of the Army to accept the principle of coordination of clandestine collection operations by CIA. Perhaps a frank conversation between yourself and General Trudeau might get at the root of what disturbs the Army. The G-2 "Indians" have told this "Indian" (and others) that the Army "can never accept coordination of its operations by CIA."

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Chief, ERM/RM~~SECRET~~